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U. S. Department of Agriculture

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES

This pictorial booth illustrates the wisdom of spending transportation funds for improved roads with resulting low motor vehicle operating costs rather than for bad roads with high maintenance and operating bills.

SPECIFICATIONS

Floor space required ----- width -- 10 ft.

----- depth --- 5 ft.

Wall space required ----- None

Shipping weight ----- 294 lbs.

Electrical requirements ----- None

HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES

How It Looks

On the center panel may be seen two human hands which are dropping silver dollars -- symbolic of highway expenditures -- upon the bucket elevator of a stone bin. Two shutes from the bin discharge the dollars into auto trucks headed in opposite directions -- one toward high operating costs on bad roads and the other toward low operating costs and good roads.

On the right panel workmen may be seen shovelling the silver dollars from the auto trucks and spreading them as the wearing course of "road metal" for an improved highway. A steam roller in the foreground is smoothing the surface in preparation for traffic.

On the left panel an auto truck is seen laboring through the mud of a partially unimproved road on a rainy day. The load of silver dollars is being gradually depleted as the money falls off the truck to be lost in the mud.

What It Tells

The problem in all highway expenditure is what is the most economical use of the money. The booth illustrates the axiom that "You pay for improved roads whether you have them or not, and you pay more in excessive vehicle-operating expenses on the unimproved roads than it would cost to improve them."

The right panel states "Let the road metal for your highway surfacing be the dollars saved in vehicle operating costs by road improvement." This does not mean that all the savings should be

invested in road improvement, but only an amount sufficient to eliminate the excessive operating costs of the motor vehicles due to the bad roads. Under ordinary conditions this results in a net saving in actual motor transport costs.

The left panel carries the legend "Don't let excessive motor vehicle operating costs on bad roads rob you of your money." In some sections the "Penny wise and pound foolish" method of highway expenditures has been adopted with the result that the motor vehicle operator pays excessive maintenance, tire, gasoline, oil and repair costs. The fallacy of this plan of road finance is apparent.

Where to Get Information

Information will be furnished upon request by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.
